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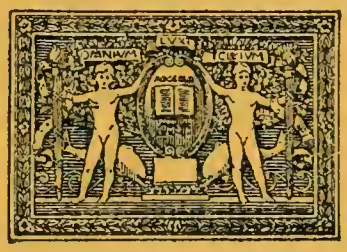
A MEMORIAL OF THE PILGRIMS

THE PRESENTATION TO THE
CITY OF BOSTON IN MASSACHUSETTS
OF AN ANCIENT RAILING FROM THE
CITY OF BOSTON IN LINCOLNSHIRE



BOSTON, MASSACHUSETTS: PRINTED
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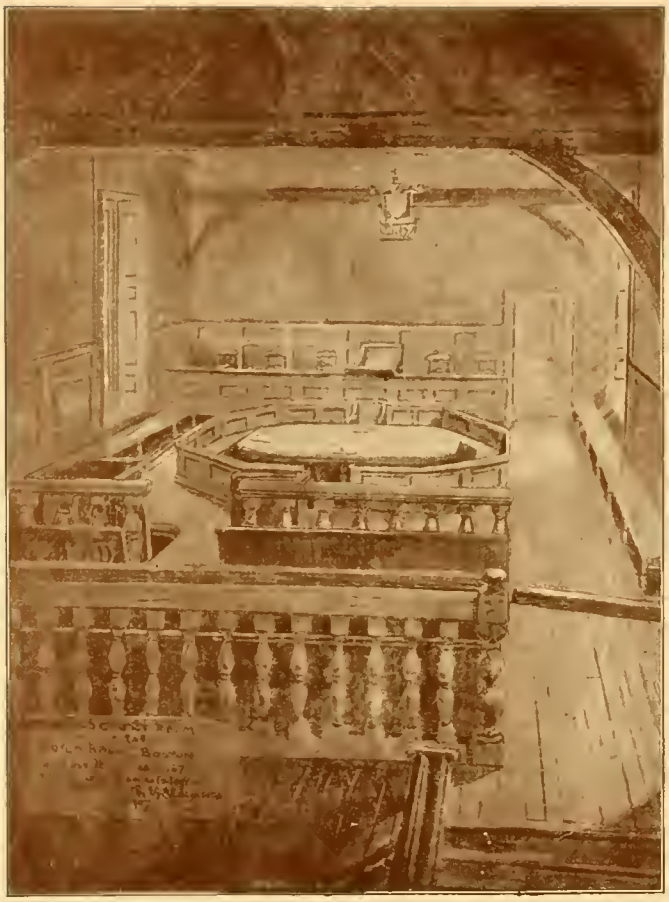

PHOTOGRAPH BY HACKFORD, BOSTON. COURTESY OF THE PAGE CO.

THE OLD COURTROOM, GUILDHALL, BOSTON, ENGLAND.

HERE THE PILGRIM FATHERS FACED THE JUSTICES BEFORE THE RAILING. A PART OF WHICH IS NOW IN THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY THE COURT CEASED TO BE HELD HERE IN 1843.

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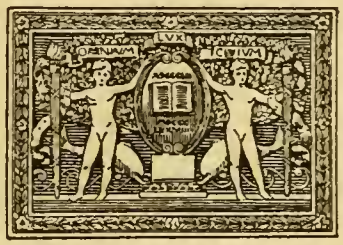

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Gift
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CONTENTS.

A Gift from Boston, England 1
Address of Mr. Ogston 3
Address of Mayor Peters 5
Governor Bradford's Letter to Governor Winthrop 9

ILLUSTRATIONS.

The Old Courtroom, Guildhall, Boston, England . . . . . *Frontispiece*
Group at the Dedication . . . . *Facing* 8
Facsimile of Governor Bradford's Letter 11

A GIFT FROM BOSTON, ENGLAND.

In April, 1918, Mr. George W. Coleman of this city was in Boston, England, in behalf of the Open Forum movement. During a stroll on the river embankment at that place he was shown part of an ancient oaken balustrade, once standing in the Palace of Justice, or Courtroom, of the old Guildhall of this ancient English city, and now held by the owner at the suitable disposition of the Boston Town Council. Before this rail some of the Pilgrim Fathers had appeared as prisoners in 1607, but what sentence was imposed by the Lords of the Council at the trial is not, and probably never will be, known. Among these prisoners was Elder William Brewster.

Mr. Coleman, seeing the importance of this memorial to newer Boston, especially at the approach of the Pilgrim Centenary, expressed a wish that this event "could be marked by a presentation from the mother to the daughter

city of such a significant old relic as the balustrade" which he had seen on the banks of the river. The idea was welcomed by His Honor A. Cooke Yarborough, Mayor of old Boston, but no action was taken in the matter until after the Armistice was signed in November, 1918.

In due time the gift arrived, and arrangements were made to place it in the Delivery Room of the Central Library in Copley Square. On May 29, 1919, at 2.30 p.m., the formal presentation was made in behalf of the City of Boston, England, by the Acting British Consul, Alfred J. Ogston, and His Honor, Mayor Andrew J. Peters, accepted the gift in behalf of the City of Boston, Massachusetts. At this ceremony the Library Board was represented by its President, W. F. Kenney, the Rev. Arthur T. Connolly, the Rev. Alexander Mann, and by the Librarian, Charles F. D. Belden.

This rail or portion of the old dock, believed to be more than three hundred years old, will henceforth stand in the Delivery Room before the large window facing Huntington Avenue.

The short addresses made by Mr. Ogston and Mayor Peters follow.

ADDRESS OF MR. OGSTON.

Your Honor, a short time ago it was my privilege to present to you, as representative of this city, a casket containing an address from the Mayor and Corporation of the City of Boston in England. It is now a great pleasure to me to have the opportunity of requesting your acceptance, on behalf of this city, of the gift of these rails, sent to its American namesake by the old English city.

A railing, Your Honor, is customarily regarded as a species of barrier between two opposing forces, and in the days of the Pilgrim Fathers this railing fulfilled this duty in the old Boston Court-house. Now, however, no barrier would be sufficiently strong to keep apart the two peoples to which we belong, and on whom the peace of the world ultimately depends.

This old piece of furniture has therefore lost its significance, but I hope, nevertheless,

that, here in this magnificent library, it may still serve as a barrier, keeping out all the partisan and false literature, historical and otherwise, which, by disseminating prejudiced and inaccurate information, both in this country and in my own, has done so much, through misinformation of the inquiring mind, to keep alive old prejudices and resentments.

I have the pleasure, Your Honor, of requesting your acceptance of this ancient railing, as a token of the kindly and cordial feeling entertained by the City of Boston in England for the City of Boston in New England, and emblematic of the feeling of love and esteem which exists between the two nations.

ADDRESS OF MAYOR PETERS.

The other day we read that an apple tree in Danvers, planted by Governor Endicott more than two hundred and fifty years ago, was still blooming, a symbol, perhaps, of the vigor of the Puritan spirit, the best of which, in spite of many changes, is still alive in New England.

But here is a memento older and more significant than the apple tree in Danvers — one that speaks to us, not of the comparatively well-to-do settlers of Charlestown, Dorchester and Trimountain, but of the lowlier and gentler Pilgrims of Plymouth. They, too, it seems, had their contact with old Boston, which was an early centre of the Puritan or Separatist movement. In 1607, according to Bradford, "a large company of them purposed to get passage at Boston in Lincolnshire and for that end had hired a ship wholly to themselves," intending to sail for Holland. But the master of the

vessel betrayed them. They were put in open boats, robbed of their belongings, and taken back to town, where the greater number were sent to their homes in the nearby villages. Seven of the principal men, including Elder Brewster, were bound over to the assizes.

Today, by the thoughtful act of the Mayor of Boston, England, we are permitted to have in our possession a material relic (one might almost say an inanimate witness), of this incident in the story of these simple and pious families. This is the railing of the dock in the Guildhall at Boston. Elder Brewster himself may have rested his hands upon it and listened to the charge preferred against him. He and his companions were certainly confined in the building.

Such mementoes quicken the imagination. They take history out of the books and make it a living thing before our eyes. Every person who sees this railing, whether adult or child, will be able to picture for himself better the wanderings of the little band whose adventures form one of the most inspiring pages in history. We can see them in their northern villages, most

of them, as Bradford says, "used to a plain country life and the innocent trade of husbandry." In the beginning of King James's reign we find them "hunted and persecuted on every side so as their former afflictions were but a flea-biting in comparison to those which now came upon them." It was then that they took their great resolution "to go into the Low Countries, where they heard was freedom of religion for all men."

Their first attempt, the one made at Boston, failed. A second was partly successful. Assembled on a lonely common between Hull and Grimsby, most of the men were taken to sea; but the women and children, who had been separated from them, were captured and only permitted to join them later. Few of them ever saw England again. The next dozen years of their history belong to Holland; the rest to Plymouth and America.

It is not for me to draw from this heroic narrative the lessons of fortitude and patience that it teaches; but I may assure you of my satisfaction that a place of honor will be kept in the Public Library for this precious memorial. Standing here it will serve as a link between the

old days and the new, mutely teaching the great virtue of reverence to our children. It will furnish a fresh bond of attachment between ourselves and the people of Boston in Lincolnshire. As Mayor of the younger city bearing that honored name, I send back sympathetic greetings and warm appreciation to our kindred across the ocean who have been inspired to this act of gracious courtesy.

DEDICATION OF THE PILGRIM RAILING, MAY 29, 1919.

FRONT ROW: ALFRED J OGSTON ACTING BRITISH CONSUL, HON ANDREW J PETERS, MAYOR OF BOSTON

BACK ROW: WILLIAM F KENNEY PRESIDENT, WITH REV ARTHUR T CONNOLLY AND REV ALEXANDER MANN, OF THE BOARD OF LIBRARY TRUSTEES, CHARLES F D BELDEN, LIBRARIAN

GOVERNOR BRADFORD'S LETTER TO GOVERNOR WINTHROP.

The original manuscript of this letter, in the handwriting of Governor William Bradford, and also signed by Myles Standish, Thomas Prence, later Governor of the Plymouth Colony, Doctor Samuel Fuller, and John Alden, is in the Chamberlain Collection in this Library. The letter was addressed "To our worshipful good friends, Mr. Winthrop, Governor of the Massachusetts, and the rest of the Council there," as stated on the last page of the manuscript which contains four pages, the second and third being blank. It relates to the establishment of a good understanding in regard to the coming and going between the two colonies of indentured servants and "sojourners."

This letter is now reproduced from the original, although not for the first time, in connec-

tion with the setting up of the rail given by the city of Boston, England. The fact that Thomas Prence married Patience, daughter of Elder William Brewster, one of the Puritans held in custody in the Old Court-house in 1607, where the rail then was, adds to the interest of this manuscript on the present occasion.

Transcription of the Letter.

Gentlemen, and
Worthyly be-
loued freinds.

We haue now at length returned an Answer to your letter dated the .26. of July (The reason we haue so longe deffered the same, is because we haue had no courte till the last month being Januarie) The sume wherof is this. that we are willing to cures-sponde with you in this, or any other neborly course, so fare as may no way be prejudicall to any, or swarue from the rules of equitie. how fare m^r^ Winslow expreste that agreement you intimate we know not (seeing he is absente) but our meaning, & former practiss, was & hath been, only of shuch as come to dwell, & inhabite, whether as seruants, or free men; and not of soujournours wch come but for a seasone, with a purpose to returne. yet if any abuse should grow hereby, we shall agree to any good order for the preuenting or redressing of

Gentlemen and
Worthyly be=
loued freinds.

We haue now at length returned an answer to your letter dated the 26. of July (the reason we gaue so longe daiferd ye same, is beeause we gaue ye no rourte till ye last monte being Januarie) the sume whereof is this. that we are willing to correspond with you in this, or any other honeste course, so fare as may no way be prejudiciall to any, or swarue from ye rules of equitie. yon fare wd Winslow exposite ye agreement you intimate we know not (being ye is absente) but our meaning, & former practise was & yet hath been only of such as come to Plymouth, & inhabite, ~~and~~ weithe as seruants, or free men; and not of sojournours wt rome but for a seasone, with a purpose to returne yet if any abuse should grow thereby, we shall ~~agree~~ to any good order for ye preuenting or redressing of ye same; prouided ye way be left open for poore men to relieue their wants, and for mutuall ~~to~~ only to look plantations. We gaue therefore ~~gieue warning~~ in open courte to all our people; not to receiue any as seruants, or other dwellers with them. but to acquainte us therwith that we may inquire of their conditions or dismissions, but we gaue sett no penalitie upon it as yet, beeause we hope ther shall be no need if ther be we gaue liberte to punish such things at our discretions, if ther will not serue; when we understand what penalte you appointe in ye case, we shall doe ye like, or ye meire shall be equiualente unto it. As for the instances you give, we find that John philips when he came was sick & if he had not been by some reuiued, to rouse he had been in danger to haue perished, he alsoe he was sent by his maister to seeke a seruise, yet as a stranger he was not entertained by any, till his maister came and sente his time, (not to him ye gaue him house roome) but to him that would give most, so we had no cause to complaine. for John Pirkroote he came but as a sojourneur to worke ~~but~~ for a fewe weeks, in wch time he goeth a miss, & so is longe since returned home, & hath no cause to complaine, wherefore he hath goot a bad name. Richard Church came likewise as a sojourneur to worke for ye present, though he is still heere residente longer then he purposed, and what he will doe, neither we nor he thinke him selfe knowes. but if he resolue heere to settle we shall require of him to procure a dismission; but he did affirme to us at ye first, that he was one of wt noble men, & meant to goe for England or neither he wouldes ye wt we ye rather bolded beeause he came to us from Massachusetts upon ye stilling you, with his partner; for others intimated, we know nor (they we gaue inquired) but they had a dismission either to come either or go for England. Now there are diuers gone from hence, to dwell and inhabite with you, as Clement Briggs. John Hill, John Cody, Daniell Ray, &c. the meire if either you, or they desire their dismissions; we shall be ready to give them; hoping you will doe the like in the like case, though we gaue heere something otherwise. thus with our prayers to ye Lord for your prosperity, as our owne, and our harty salutations unto you all we rest

your assured louing friends

William Bradford Gouer.

Myles Standish

Plim: feb. 6.
1621.

Samuell
Fuller
John Alden

the same; prouided the way be left open for pore men to releve ther wants, And for mutuall help to both plantations. We haue therfore giuen warning in open courte to all our people; not to receiue any as seruants, or other dwellers with them, but to aquainte us first therwith that we may inquire of their certificates or dismisions, but we have sett no penealtie upon it as yett, because we hope ther shall be noe need if ther be we have libertie to punish shuch things at our discretions; if that will not serue; when we vnderstand what penealtie you apointe in the case, we shall doe the like, or that which shall be equivelente vnto it. As for the instances you give; we find that John Philips when he came was sick & if he had not been by some receiued to house he had been in danger to have perished, he aledged he was sent by his maister to seeke a seruise; yet as a servente he was not entertained by any; till his maister came and sould his time, (not to him that gave him house roome) but to him that would giue most, so he had no cause to complaine. for John Pickworth he came but as a soujournour to worke for a few weeks, in wch time he goote a wife, & so is longe since returned duble, & hath no cause to complaine, excepte he hath goot a bad wife. Richard Church came likewise ass a soujounour to worke for the present; though he is still hear residente longer than he purpossed; And what he will doe, neither, we nor I thinke him selfe knows. but if he resolue here to setle we shall require of him to procure a dismision;

but he did affirme to us at the first, that he was one of m^{r} webbs men, & freed to goe for England or whither he would the wch we the rather beleued because he came to vs from the wessagasscusett upon the falling out with his parttner; for others intimated, we know none (thoug we have inquired) but they had a dismission either to come hither, or goe for England. Now ther are diuerce goone from hence, to dwell and inhabite with you, as Clement Briggs. John Hill, John Eedy, daniell ray, &c. the which if either you, or they desire thir dismissions; we shall be redy to giue them; hopeing you will doe the like in the like cases, though we have heard something otherwise. Thus with our prayers to the Lord for your prosperity, as our owne, and our harty salvtations vnto you all we rest

your assured louing freinds

Plim: feb. 6. 1631.	Samuel ffuller	William Bradford Goue^{r}:
	John Alden	Myles Standish
		Tho: Prence:

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